

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 161220Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2732

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0575

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ, RH

SUBJECT: WAR: MINES IN TETE, TERROR IN MORRUMBELA, RAIL
LINES CUT

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 556

1. SUMMARY: MOZAMBIQUE WAR CONTINUES TO EXPAND WITH INTENT
TO DISCOURAGE PORTUGUESE AND CONVINCE PUBLIC OF GROWING
FRELIMO POWER, AS INDICATED IN VARIOUS INCIDENTS OF PAST
FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY.

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WM IN EARLY HOURS JULY 13, TWO WNTI-PERSONNEL MINES WERE

TOUCHED OFF IN VACANT LOT INSIDE TETE CITY, BLOWING LEG OFF AFRICAN PASSERBY. OTHER MINES WERE DISCOVERED AND DUG UP BY ARMY. MILITARY COMMAND IN TETE ISSUED COMMUNIQUE APPEALING TO PUBLIC TO REMAIN CALM. THIS FIRST REPORTED MINE INSIDE A MAJOR EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT.

3. MEANWHILE, OPENING OF SO-CALLED NEW ZAMBEZIAN FRONT BY FRELIMO HAS CAUSED AT LEAST TEMPORARY PANIC IN TOWN OF MORRUMBALA NEAR SOUTHERN TIP OF MALAWI. THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY THREE RELATIVELY MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED IN THIS "NEW FRONT" (REFTEL) NEAR VILLAGE OF CHIRE ON MALAWI BORDER (ORIGINAL REPORTS HAD LOCATED INCIDENTS FURTHER NORTH NEAR LAKE CHIRUE (CHIRWA), EUROPEAN RESIDENTS AND MISSIONARIES IN MORRUMBALA WERE BADLY FRIGHTENED AND NUMBERS OF THEM FLEW OR SENT THEIR FAMILIES (A TOTAL NUMBER ESTIMATED AT 130) OUT TO QUELIMANE. THIS LED TO RUMOR THAT MORRUMBALA HAD FALLEN TO FRELIMO, RUMOR WHICH WAS PROMPTLY DENIED BOTH BY PORTUGUESE AND BY FRELIMO, AS WELL AS BY SOUTH AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT JOHN EDLIS OF ARGUS NEWS SERVICE WHO VISITED TOWN JULY 13. MILITARY HAS TOLD PRESS SOME THREE GROUPS TOTALLING ABOUT 30 FRELIMO BELIEVED TO BE OPERATING IN THE AREA.

4. ATTACKS ON RAIL LINES CONTINUE. TETE LINE HAD BEEN HEAVILY MINED NEAR MALAWI BORDER JUNE 26, WITH RESULTING INTERRUPTION OF SUPPLIES FOR CABORA BASSA AND COAL FROM MOATIZE MINES (REPORTEDLY 1,300 WORKERS LAID OFF FROM MINES BECAUSE OF THIS AND PREVIOUS RAIL CUTS). RAIL LINE CUT AGAIN OVER TWO-KILOMETER STRETCH IN SAME AREA JULY 11, WITH SEVERAL DAYS EXPECTED NECESSARY FOR REPAIRS. ON BEIRA-RHODESIA RAILWAY, MINE DERAILED A MAIL TRAIN NEAR RHODESIAN FRONTIER, WOUNDING ONE OF 140 PASSENGERS; PRESS REPORTS RHODESIA HAS SUSPENDED ALL RAIL SHIPMENTS TO BEIRA. CITY OF VILA PEREIRA HAS CANCELLED ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, FOLLOWING URBAN INCIDENTS DETAILS OF WHICH NOT YET MADE PUBLIC.

5. OTHER FRELIMO ATTACKS CONTINUE IN OTHER WAR ZONES. TWO GUARDS WERE WOUNDED IN A BRANCH CAMP INSIDE GORONGOSA GAME RESERVE, AND OTHER INCIDENTS REPORTED IN INHAMITGAHAREA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YM COMMENT: WAR GOES ON AND IS HAVING INCREASED IMPACT IN AREAS WITH SUBSTANTIAL EUROPEAN POPULATION AND HITERTO MORE OR LESS IMMUNE FROM FRELIMO ATTACK. DESPITE REPORTS OF REINFORCEMENTS ENTERING MOZAMBIQUE AT BEIRA (AMMUNITION, AIRCRAFT, TROOPS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES) ARMY IS CLEARLY CONDUCTING INCREASINGLY DEFENSIVE OPERATION, WITH TROOPS RELUCTANT GO INTO BUSH TO FIGHT WAR THAT PORTUGAL NO LONGER

HOPES TO WIN. SINCE FRELIMO EVIDENTLY INTENDS TO CARRY ON
WITH WAR UNTIL AND UNLESS ITS DEMANDS FOR TRANSFER OF POWER
ARE MET, THE OUTLOOK IS FOR EXPANDED MILITARY ACTIVITY
INTENDED TO IMPRESS AND FRIGHTEN EUROPEAN POPULATION. AS
IN PAST, THIS WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO BE PLAYED DOWN IN
MOZAMBIQUE PRESS AND EXAGGERATED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PAPERS.
WALKER

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Message Attributes

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